

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, March, 12, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.
John W. Collette Education Resource Center – Conference Room A
35 Commerce Way, Dover, DE 19904

Minutes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Layfield at 9:03 am.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Dr. Bradley Bley, Robert Cilento, Dr. Matt Donovan, Vetra Evans-Gunter, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Bruce Harris, Mike Hart, Jeremy Jeanne, Dr. Bradley Layfield, Chuck Little, Douglas Thompson, Stan Waterman, Robert Watson, and Michael Rodriguez, Associate Secretary of Education. Laura Makransky, Deputy Attorney General, and DIAA staff Donna Polk and Amoscita Rodriguez were also in attendance. Kevin Charles, DIAA Consultant, also attended for a portion of the meeting.

Dr. Kathleen Andrus arrived at 9:07. Dr. Evelyn Edney, Mike Breeding, and Ted Laws were unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda; the motion was seconded by Dr. Bley and carried with a unanimous vote 13 – yes [Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 no.

D. Approval of Regular Minutes of DIAA February 13, 2020 Board Meeting

Ms. Evans-Gunter made a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of DIAA February 14, 2020 Board Meeting with the amendment that the Student Athletic Committee be added as an item on the next agenda; the motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried with a vote of 11 – yes [Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Harris, Hart, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], 0 no, and 2 abstentions [Fitzgerald and Jeanne].

E. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of DIAA February 13, 2020 Board Meeting

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of DIAA February 13, 2020 Board Meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Little and carried with a vote of

11 – yes [Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Harris, Hart, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], 0 no, and 2 abstentions [Fitzgerald and Jeanne].

F. DIAA Financial Report

Ms. Polk reported that revenue for the football and volleyball championships was received. DIAA is still collecting MOU fees.

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bley and carried with a unanimous vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 no.

III. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact on Regular Season and Championship Games

Dr. Layfield stated that the Board was taking the item out of order.

Alison May, DOE Public Information Officer, was present to give information about the Coronavirus COVID-19. She informed the Board that the first person that tested positive for the coronavirus in the state of Delaware is from New Castle, Delaware. She stated that Delaware Division of Public Health does not feel that it is necessary to close schools at the time, but the final decision is left up to the schools' administrations.

The Board discussed whether and how to continue with the Basketball Semifinals and Championships.

Ms. Evans-Gunter made a motion to move boys' and girls' basketball semi-final games to Friday and final games to Saturday to be hosted by the higher seed, limit a school party to 11 as defined in the Winter Tournament Manual, limit spectators to two parents or legal guardians per player as provided on the list prepared by the school's athletic director, and restrict media access except for NFHS Network to broadcast the games online. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried with a vote of 11 Yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Layfield, Little, Waterman, and Watson] and 3 no [Hart, Thompson, and Jeanne].

Recess was taken at 10:06 am to disseminate the information to the member schools. Board returned from recess at 10:23 am.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to move the Unified Sports® basketball final game to Friday to be hosted by the higher seed. Mr. Hart seconded the motion and it carried by a unanimous vote of 14 – yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0-no.

Mr. Jeanne made a motion that basketball and all spring sports continue contingent upon any updates from the State and for all sports to follow recommendations from the Delaware Division of Public Health through the Board's April meeting. Mr. Hart seconded the motion and it carried

by a unanimous vote of 14 – yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0-no.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated that there was a need for a contingency plan if the basketball championships are canceled or postponed. A decision should be made if the games would be played at a later date. Ms. Polk stated that if no championship game is played a champion would not be declared.

Mr. Charles asked the Board to provide guidance for Ms. Polk regarding what decisions she can make if the championships are canceled.

Dr. Fitzgerald made the motion: “Should Friday’s game be played and there is no Saturday game played a co-champion will be awarded. Should no games be played then each school will receive a “Final Four Trophy” and there will be no champion declared. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeanne and carried by a vote 13 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], and 1 no (Layfield).

Dr. Bley made a motion to not charge admission to the championship games and allow the host sites to make a decision regarding what media can be present. Ms. Evans-Gunter seconded the motion and the motion carried 12 yes [Bley, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws no Laws add Andrus, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 2 No [Watson, Cilento].

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to allow each coach’s significant other to attend basketball semi-final and final games. Ms. Evans-Gunter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 14 – yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 – no.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the following sanctioned events: Outdoor Track: The Cambridge Classic (2/6/2020) -Annapolis Relays (3/27/2020) Stephen Decatur HS (3/31/2020) Diamond State Relays (4/4/2020) The Panther Challenge Twilight Invitational (4/9/2020) Sam Singleton Scorpion Classic (4/11/2020) Trojan Invitation (4/18/2020) Millers Invitational (4/18/2020) The Gator Track and Field Invitational (4/25/2020) The Emerging Elite Track & Field Invitational (4/27/2020) Caravel Invitational (4/11/2020) Twilight Invitational (4/17/2020) Glenn D. Loucks Games (5/7/2020) Cross Country: Baltimore Charm City XC Festival (10/3/2020). The motion was seconded by Dr. Bley and carried by a unanimous vote of 14 – yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 no. Ms. Polk notified the Board NFHS placed Diamond State Classic Tournament under probation for one year. No further restrictions.

C. Request for Full Membership from Odessa High School

Odessa High School is the third high school to be opening in Appoquinimink School District for the 2020-21 school year. The principal, Dr. Veronica Perrine, was present and requested that the Board grant full membership to Odessa HS, because they will be offering all sports of interests to the students.

Mr. Cilento made a motion to provide full DIAA membership to Odessa High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried with a unanimous vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 no.

D. Request to Create DIAA Committees – Student-Athlete Development Committee and Scheduling Committee

Student Athlete Committee – the purpose of this committee would be to meet the needs of the student athletes. This committee would be under regulations 1006.3.2 and would meet three to four times a year.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to create the Student Athlete Development Committee to provide student-athletes' insight into DIAA's rulemaking and the motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried with a unanimous vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 no.

The Scheduling Committee would also be a standing committee. Mr. Hart made a motion to create the Scheduling Committee; the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a unanimous vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], and 0 no.

E. Approval and Appointment of Committee Members

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to appoint Bob Beron to the Girls Soccer Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried with a unanimous vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], and 0 no.

Mr. Cilento made a motion to appoint Craig Black to the Girls Basketball Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeanne and carried with a unanimous vote 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], and 0 no.

F. Committee Member Terms

Mr. Hart made a motion to table this agenda item until the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried with an unanimous vote of 14 yes [Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Andrus, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 no.

G. Board Member Request to Discuss Realignment and Transfers

Mr. Thompson provided examples to the Board of why it is of utmost importance that guidelines for Realignment be established. His specific concern is that there are some schools that are competing in 60% of games out of state and conference.

Dr. Layfield informed the Board that in regards to Transfer Rules, the Rules and Regulations Committee had to table this discussion due to lack of time, but it will be discussed when they reconvene.

There was no motion or vote made on this item.

H. February 12, 2020 Phillip Farmer Letter to DIAA Board

Mr. Waterman made a motion that this complaint be assigned to the Sportsmanship Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bley and carried with a unanimous vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson], and 0 no.

I. Email from William Smith Concerning Red Lion Christian Academy Athletic Director Conduct

The Board discussed that it investigated allegations that Red Lion Christian Academy recruited student athletes in violation of interscholastic athletic rules and regulations in August 2019 and that, after holding a hearing, it did not find a clear violation of the rules and regulations. Mr. Smith should contact police regarding his complaints that the Red Lion Christian Academy keeps money from its flag football program for itself and that Kenneth Anderson took dollars and donations from a league in Middletown.

There was no motion or vote made on this item.

IV. Discussion Item

A. Presentation to Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee

Ms. Polk informed the Board that the presentation for DIAA is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 12 noon at Legislative Hall.

V. DIAA Executive Director Report

Ms. Polk reported that there was a tie for Second place at the Girls swimming Championships between Newark Charter and Ursuline. Newark Charter offered Ursuline the trophy. DIAA will order another trophy for Newark Charter.

VI. DIAA Committee Report

No items for the report.

VII. Other Items for Discussion Only

- Dr. Fitzgerald requested that a Lifetime Achievement Award for Jim Harvey be added to the next agenda.
- Ms. Polk will bring ideas regarding a Recognition Committee
DIAA Banquet originally scheduled for June 2020 may be rescheduled to 2021 due to staff transitions and the Coronavirus pandemic
- Ms. Polk provided an update on Coordinator position. The Screening Committee and First round interviews occurred. Second round interviews will occur next week.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment

IX. Adjournment

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Dr. Andrus. The motion carried unanimously 14 – yes [Andrus, Bley, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman, and Watson] and 0 – no.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 pm.